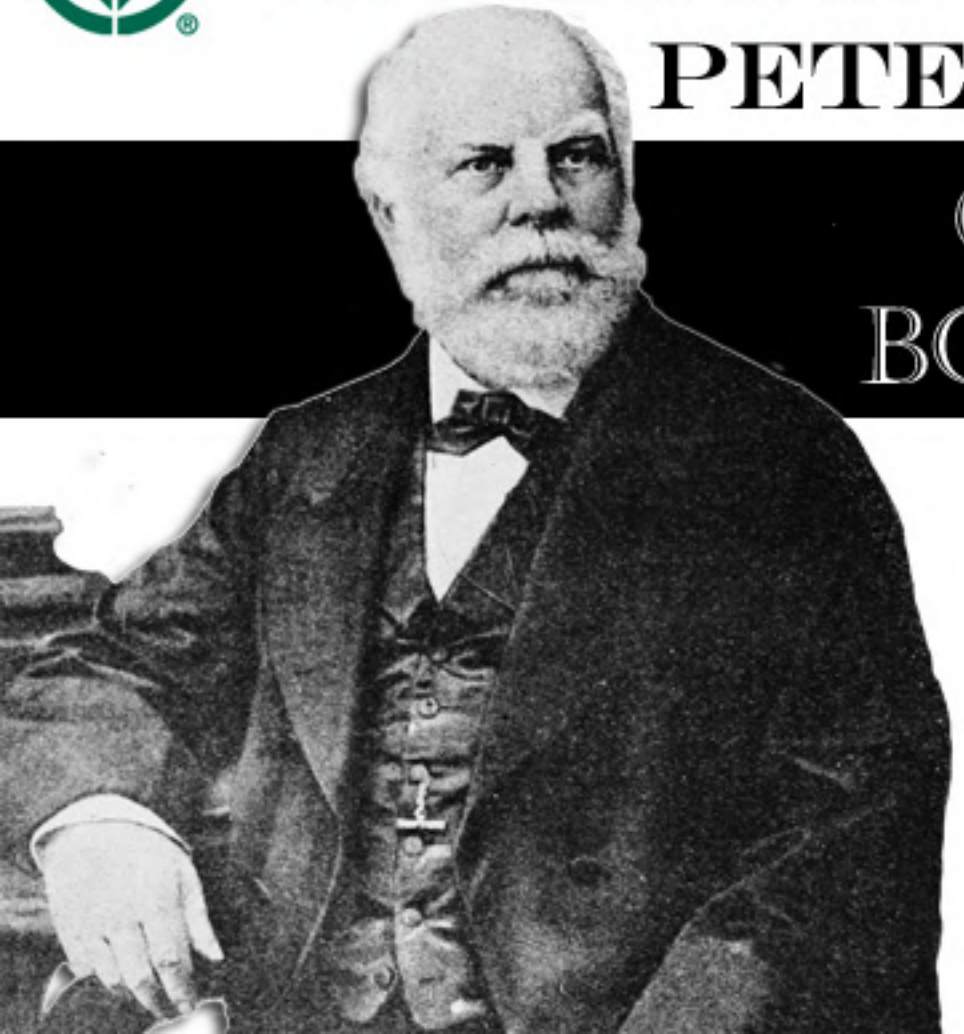
Missouri Botanical Garden

Peter H. Raven Library

George Engelmann Botanical Notebooks



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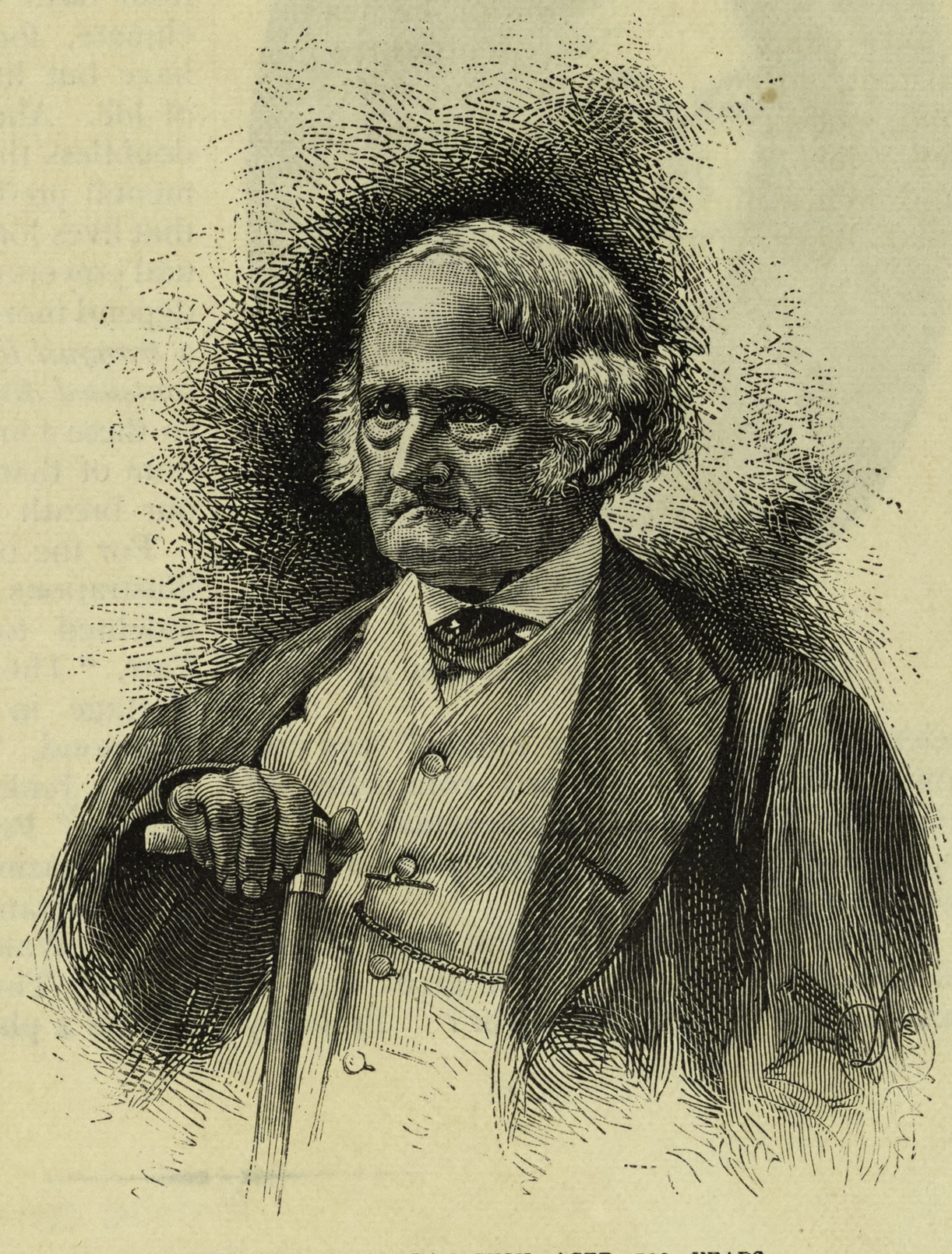
will meet it. Eighteen centuries ago (with reverence be it remarked) "doubting Thomas" said: "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." So with the doubting Thoms of our day. Unless he can search in person the register of birth, marriage and death, and, poring over at every point the records of vital statistics, can meet his man properly indexed, he would state the case not proven.

In the city of New York at the present day resides Captain Frederick Lahrbush, formerly of the British army, said to be aged 109 years, and enjoying good health. A gentleman of the most engaging manners and natural refinement, he receives a large number of visitors, and relates a history of romantic interest. He resides in Third Avenue, and almost every Sabbath, at the Church of the Ascension on Fifth Avenue, the childish treble of his worn out voice may be heard above the worship of the congregation. He rises before five in the morning, and retires shortly after seven in the evening. He is abstemious in his habits, though in the daily practice of eating opium, to which drug, it is believed, he attributes his long life. Captain Lahrbush claims to have fought under Wellington in the Peninsula, and to have witnessed the signing of the famous Treaty of Tilsit, which took place in 1807 (on a raft moored in the River Niemen) between Napoleon, Alexander of Russia, and the King of Prussia. It is but fair to add in regard to this case of longevity that Mr. Thoms has written across its record with an unrelenting hand, and with a pen of iron, and those curious about such matters are referred to his work, "Longevity of Man."

Another interesting character is thus described: "The Irish Countess of Desmond fell from a fruit tree, broke her thigh and died in 1609—aged 145 years. She danced at Court with the Duke of Gloucester, afterward Richard the Third. Indeed she continued gay and lively in her tastes, dancing even beyond her hundredth birthday. She cut three new sets of teeth. Her family being ruined by rebellion, she made the long journey to London to seek relief from the Court of James the First."



CAPT. FREDERICK LAHRBUSH, AGED 109 YEARS.

We may ask, in closing, is it desirable that all men and women should become centenarians? Manifestly not. These shrunken, shriveled relics of a past age, in the knotted and tangled line of whose life personal identity has barely been preserved, would, if familiar to our eyes, produce a depressing effect on the living. Useful lives are to be desired rather than mere length of days.

"*Ævum implet actis, non segnibus annis.*"

A quarter or half a century of sleeping existence, feeble superannuation, an exception to the sound laws of health and the rule of accidents, these childish, antiquated people, have long ceased to be a pleasure to themselves or to the world. Their own testimony shows an anxious waiting for their time of

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THE COUNTESS OF DESMOND, AGED 145.

release. "Not an hour longer," says one, and another with wearied complaint exclaims: "God, in letting me remain so long upon the earth, seems actually to have forgotten me."

But we have returned to the starting-point of our investigations. Can great age be secured by human endeavor? Probably not. The European and the negro, the Chinese and the American, the civilized man and the savage, the rich and the poor, the dweller in cities and he that lives in the country, differing so much from one another in some respects, all resemble one another in having the same allotment of time to pass from birth to death; and the variations of climate, food and conveniences, seem to have but little to do with the prolongation of life. Abnormal instances of longevity are doubtless the result of a certain bodily and mental predisposition to great age. The man that lives long probably possesses strong natural powers of restoration and healing. These depend more or less for their fulfillment upon a *tranquil life*, an *absence of irritability*, and a *contented disposition*. And let there be added to these a firm reliance on the mercy and wisdom of that Divine Power "in whose hands our breath is, and whose are all our ways."

For the original portraits from which the illustrations of this paper are taken we are indebted to the following sources:—Old Parr, "The World of Wonders;" Parr's Cottage in Shropshire, and Countess of Desmond, "Chambers's Book of Days;" Henry Jenkins, "Bailey's Records of Longevity;" Peter Garden, the "New Wonderful Magazine;" John Rovin and wife, and Peter Zartan, "Kirby's Wonderful Museum;" Count Waldeck, the "London Illustrated News." The portrait of Frederick Lahrbush is from a photograph taken in 1875.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

GLASS SPONGES.

THE distinction which our present knowledge enables us to make between the humblest forms of animal and vegetable life is a functional, rather than a chemical or a sensible one. It lies in what they do, rather than in what they are. The lowest representatives of both kingdoms are included under the same general term. Protozoon and protophyte are alike called protoplasm, and appear to possess the same intrinsic qualities.

The practical difference between animal and vegetable life consists in their respective powers of assimilation. Plants take in as nutriment the inorganic elements of earth and air; by the subtle chemistry of nature, in her dark and silent laboratory underground, the lifeless minerals of the earth are wrought into living tissues, endowed with the capacity for growth and reproduction. Except in the Fungi, this transmutation of inorganic into organic matter is believed to be accomplished, only under the controlling influence of light. Animal vitality is sustained only by the material thus transmuted; all the solid nutriment necessary for the maintenance of animal life must have been converted into vegetable, or reconverted into animal tissue before it can fulfill its purpose. Man, surrounded by all the wealth of inorganic nature, would perish if there were not everywhere about him millions of busy little alchemists unceasingly at work day and night,

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P. agrifolia

Calif. Berlander 1866

May 18 1874

a

b

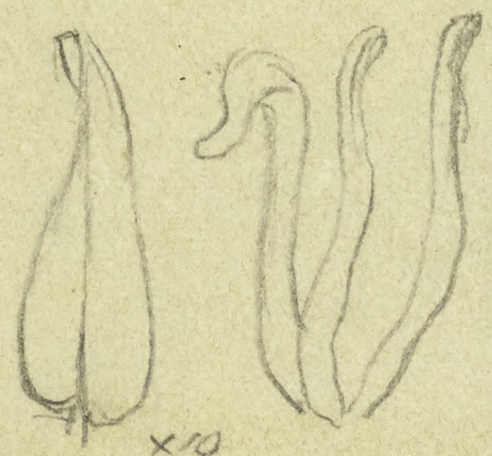
×10

Landsb

2 fem flowers ×10

a with 2 styles,
one single, the other connate of 3 styles

b. flower with 5 styles



×10

often monstrous stamens seen

in some anomalous or specimens all anthers are apiculate

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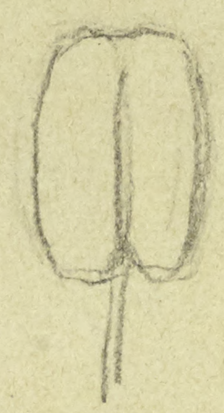
Pueraria apiifolia ?

May 18 1874

pubinervis

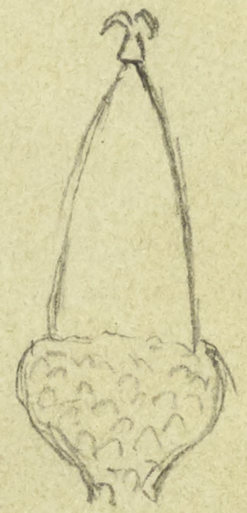
Bolanda, Mindoro

x10

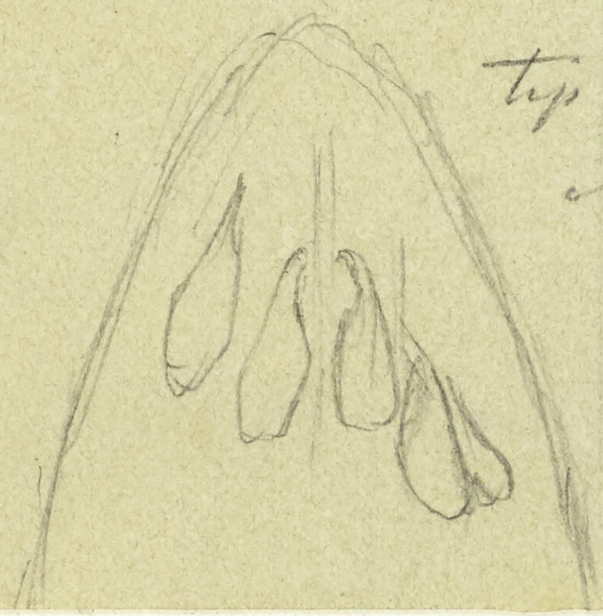


x10

6 (-7?)
anthers



tip of aroon
x10



tip of kernel
with 5 abortive
ovules
at tip

x10

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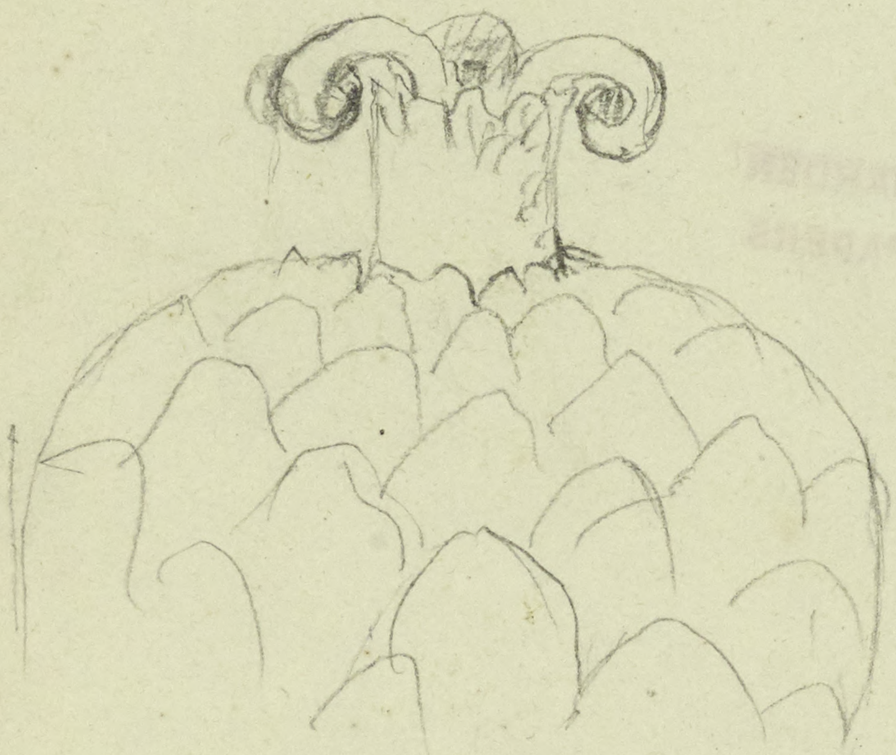
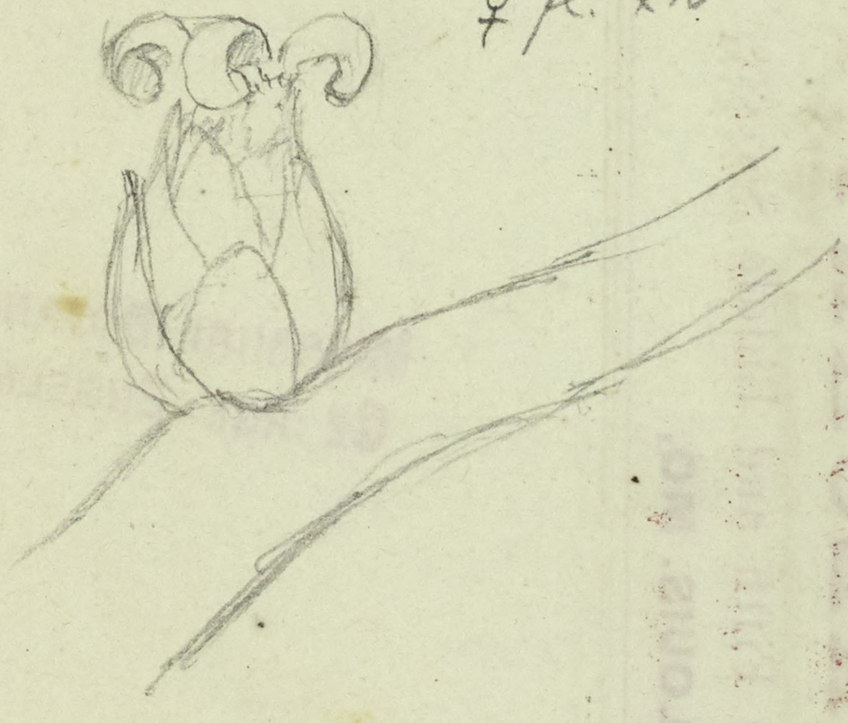
Quercus occidentalis Gray

May 31 1874

young fruit ×10



♀ fl. ×10



2-4 aments ♂ fl

×10

anther unopened

Pollen ×415

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Quercus Cerris

May 31 1874

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cm
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Quercus Persica

May 31 1874

Kotschy leg

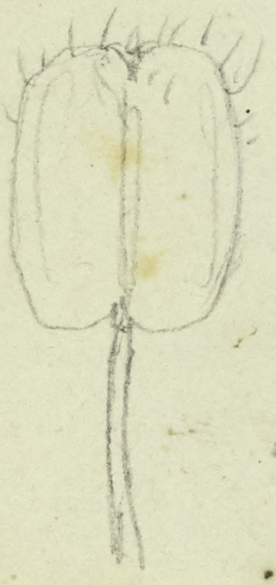
stigma ×60

×10

♂ 5–6 anthers

young fruit

×10



×10.

anther slightly hairy upwards

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May 31. 1874

Quercus Pseudosuber

coll. Vernière, Aug 1857

4 feet high

2½ metres wd

"Quercus Aegilops"

coll. same day & Vernière

has the same veined style

and is probably not specifically

different

These styles seem to be more

deciduous than usual, and

disappear ± the very first long

before maturity.

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Quercus Hispanica ≈ Bentzelii May 31 1874

Trianon, Jay leg.

♂ 5–6 andrœcia

anthers hairy
especially
upward

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Quercus corrugata May 31 1876

flower bud x18

5-6 sinuses

Lobes acuminate

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G. aspifolia Sept 4 1876

fructus annuus

San Diego Palmer

shorter ovules

inside of shell silky tomentose

Missouri Botanical Garden
Library
Dicksonia

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Smith & Curtis
DRUGGISTS
Corner of Third and Market Streets
Saint Louis

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
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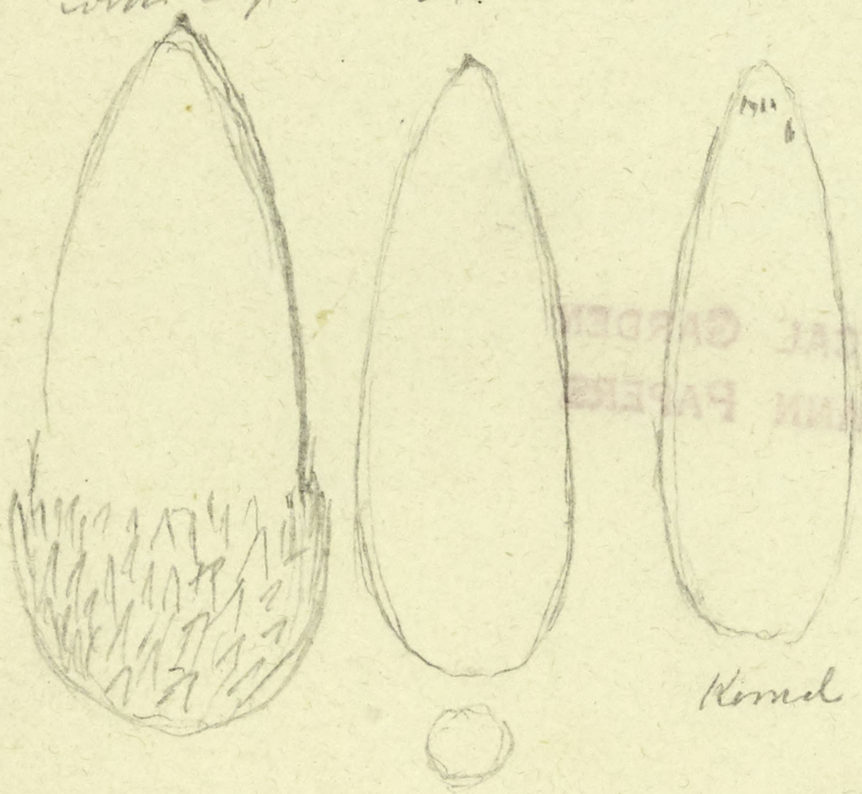
Q. aggregata

Quercus pungens Liebm ? Jan 4 1876

DC Prod p. 36

San Bernardino S Parry Dec 1875

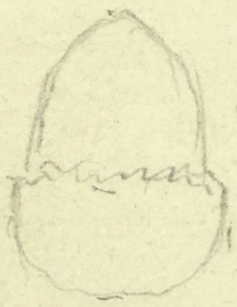


5 apical ovules

× 10

Kennedy the cover one is no doubt the true fruit of the fully developed one

Inside of shell silky



Q. pungens!

Dimensions of fruit
as descr. by Liebman
Syn. Cyc. Lobb.

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cm
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Smith & Gruliez
DRUGGISTS
Southwest Fifth and Market Streets

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Q. Emoryi Torr Bot Emory Rep. 1848 p. 151. tab 9

"common in the elevated country between the Del Norte and the Gila".

"Oct 17. 1846" Emory's label = Hb Torr. [just before reaching the Copper mine, on the

divide between the waters of the Rio Grande and the Pimeres. "thick growth

of stunted Live oak" p. 57 foliage good. — pr as figured by Torr as presented here

& description and lab

fr. "gravelly Hills on the Limpia". Bigelow = Hb Torry fr old flower

Sierra del Pajarito [South Arizona] Schott = Hb Torry fr! fr 3 nr 3 < Bro 4

fr. 1865 Wright = Hb Torry & Hb Gray & Wright 666 = Hb Gray

quoted by DC. Prod. [?] is quoted by Liebm for his Q. hastata

Mexican Exped 1849 = Hb Torry

fl. Sonora Capt E K Smith " " = flower!

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G. Phellos var. pumila, Michx. Guern. & Hor.; G. cinerea var. pumila, Chapm., A. DeCand. Prod.

Var. sericea has similar narrow, or larger, ovate-lanceolate, leaves, clays silky white underneath. the largest leaves on fertile branches were over 4 inches long by 1¼ inches in width, and on sterile shoots even larger.— G. sericea Willd., Pursh; G. Phellos var. sericea, Ait.

The leaves of the glabrous form resemble those of Phellos and those of the silky variety those of cinerea, and without the fruit they could not all be distinguished from them.

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Quercus agrifolia Dolander March 21 1866: I have collected flowers. Those trees that bear flowers, loose most of their leaves as soon as the young ones are fully formed; but there are odd looking trees which retain all their old leaves and have no flowers nor young shoots. None of them are at any time leafless.

March 29 1866

During the rainy season some of the old leaves already fall off [in winter] and the heads of the trees become less dense

In February I found good ripe fruit on trees and shrubs of this species; but all had germinated! no doubt in consequence of the great and uniform humidity of the rainy season.

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